

CLAIMS

1. An immunocomplex for raising an immune response in an individual against an antigen, said immunocomplex comprising
5 the antigen and Fas ligand (FasL) as an adjuvant.
2. An immunocomplex according to claim 1 wherein the immune response is a CD4 immune response.
- 10 3. An immunocomplex according to claim 1 wherein the antigen is a tumour associated antigen.
4. A immunocomplex according to claim 1 wherein the antigen is a bacterial or viral antigen
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5. An immunocomplex according to any one of the preceding claims wherein said immunocomplex is a fusion protein of the antigen and FasL.
- 20 6. An immunocomplex according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein said immunocomplex is a tumour cell expressing FasL.

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7. An immunocomplex according to claim 6 wherein the tumour cell is a melanoma cell.

8. An immunocomplex according to any one of the preceding claims further comprising an agent capable of complementing the FasL adjuvant.

9. An immunocomplex according to claim 8 wherein the agent is capable of depleting CD25 expressing cells in vivo.

10. An immunocomplex according to claim 8 or claim 9 wherein the agent is an anti-CD25 monoclonal antibody.

11. A nucleic acid molecule encoding an immunocomplex according to claim 5.

12. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an immunocomplex or a nucleic acid according to any one of the preceding claims.

13. A method of providing an immunocomplex comprising a tumour associated antigen and FasL, said method comprising transfecting a tumour cell with FasL such that the ligand is

expressed by the transfected cell along with the tumour associated antigens.

14. A method of providing an immunocomplex comprising a
5 pathogen associated antigen and FasL, said method comprising
transfecting or transforming a pathogen cell with FasL such
that the ligand is expressed by the transfected cell along
with the pathogen associated antigens.

10 15. Use of an immunocomplex according to any one of claims
1 to 10, or a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 11,
or an immunocomplex as produced by the method of claim 13 or
claim 14, in the preparation of a medicament for inducing an
immune response in an individual against an antigen, wherein
15 said medicament is administered to an individual so as to
induce an antibody immune response against said antigen.

16. A method of inducing an immune response in an
individual against an antigen, comprising the step of
20 administering to said individual an immunocomplex according
to any one of claims 1 to 10, an immunocomplex as produced
by the method of claim 13 or claim 14, a nucleic acid

according to claim 11, or a pharmaceutical composition
according to claim 12.

17. A method of providing an immunocomplex for inducing an
5 immune response in an individual against a tumour cell, said
method comprising

obtaining a tumour cell from said individual; and
transfecting said cell with FasL such that said cell
expresses FasL.

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18. Use of a transfected tumour cell produced by a method
according to claim 17 in the preparation of a medicament for
inducing an antibody immune response in said individual
against said tumour.

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19. A method of treating cancer in an affected individual,
comprising the step of administering a transfected tumour
cell produced by a method according to claim 17.

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20. A method of identifying cell-specific antibodies
comprising

(a) transfecting a cell with FasL;

(b) vaccinating a test animal with said transfected cell;

(c) collecting serum from said test animal; and

(d) identifying antibodies specific for said cell from
5 the serum.

21. A method according to claim 20 further comprising the step

(e) producing monoclonal antibodies from said
10 identified antibodies.

22. A method according to claim 20 or claim 21 further comprising the step of producing a pharmaceutical composition comprising said antibodies.

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23. A method of identifying specific cell associated antigens comprising

(a) contacting an antibody identified by a method according to claim 20 or claim 21 with a plurality of
20 potential cell associated antigens;

(b) identifying specific binding between said antibody and an antigen; and

(c) characterising said antigen.

24. A method according to claim 23 wherein said potential cell associated antigens are derived from the cell used to identify the tumour specific antibodies according to claim
5 20 or claim 21.

25. A method according to claim 23 or claim 24 wherein the potential cell associated antigens are displayed using an expression library or fixed to a solid support.

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26. A method according to any one of claims 23 to 25 wherein the specific binding between said antibody and an antigen is identified by a labelling technique.

15 27. A method according to any one of claims 20 to 26, wherein said cell is a tumour cell, and said cell associated antigens are tumour associated antigens.